

THE REPORTER

OF THE

STRASSBERGER

CONSERVATORIES OF MUSIC.

St. Louis, Mo.

Vol. 23

September 1923

No. 22

ESTABLISHED
1886

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INCORPORATED
1908

RICHARD E. WOLTJEN



AUGUST WINTER



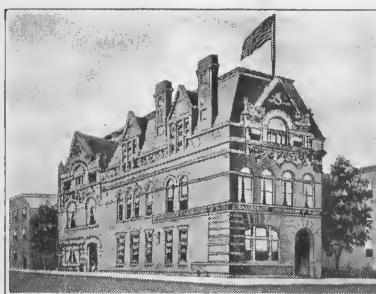
B. C. STRASSBERGER

Management

VICTOR C. DAESCH



South Side Building



North Side Building



O'Fallon Park Building

STRASSBERGER CONSERVATORIES OF MUSIC

Three Schools

{ South Side, Shenandoah Ave. and Grand Blvd. Phones—Grand 2109, Victor 79.
North Side, Twenty-second and St. Louis Avenue. Phone—Central 8499.
O'Fallon Park, Alice and w. Florissant Avenues. Phone—Delmar 378

THE MOST RELIABLE, COMPLETE AND BEST EQUIPPED MUSIC SCHOOLS IN THE WEST.

RE-OPEN SEPTEMBER 1, 1923.

SPECIAL LOW TERMS FOR CHILDREN.

SEND FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1923

The members are the following:

Graduates of the Third Degree:

Piano Department—Lillian Wutzler, Elizabeth A. Boyer, Norine Wiegand, Leo J. Stevens, Agnes E. Goldsberry, Irene Imholtz, Ann R. Morrissey.

Graduates of the Second Degree:

Piano Department—Marie I. Krauss, Paul A. Hoetter, Margaret G. Hablutzel, Emma F. L. Ritter, Ledia F. Koch, Dorothy Dombach, Margaretha E. Mueller, Gertrude Bar-

bara Haug, Mrs. August Hartman, L. Estella Krames.

Violin Department—George F. Kuzdas, Marie Golub.

Vocal Department—Christine Werthmuller.

Graduates of the First Degree:

Piano Department—Gertrude Genevieve Neal, Hattie A. Macner, Flora E. Brewer, Rachel J. Spanuth, Eleanor R. Ulrich, Vera E. Weidner, Mildred Marie Burg, Lavina M. Mings, Elvera I. Ziegenfuss.

Violin Department—Marian Angel.

Private Course:

Violin Department—Joseph C. Wotawa. Harmony—Edith Plato, Otto W. F. Ehler, Leo J. Courtney, Hugo A. Rule, Orville H. Menzi.

History of Music—Lillian J. Boesenber, Vivien E. Quentin.

As in previous years, the splendid Mason and Hamlin pianos, furnished by the Kieselhorst Piano Company, contributed largely to the artistic success of the exercises.



STRASSBERGER GRADUATES RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS

By Richard Spamer,

Music-Drama Editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The most successful graduating exercises ever held by the Strassberger Conservatories of Music took place last Thursday night at the Shubert-Jefferson Theater. The auditorium of the popular playhouse and the theater's adequate stage facilities contributed largely to the work of the students and the enjoyment of the beyond capacity gathering of friends and well-wishers of an institution that for nearly forty years has been in uninterrupted and constantly increasing activity in St. Louis.

The graduating class was one of the largest and surely the most proficient in the

conservatories' record. Thirty-six young students of music and the allied arts received diplomas, medals and other awards, which, at the close of the musical program in which all the graduates participated, were bestowed on them by Director Bruno C. Strassberger.

In that program, consisting of vocal and instrumental numbers, most of the great masters of music were represented, and each of the graduates performed acceptably the allotted selection.

At the close of the musical exercises, H. W. Becker, A. M., addressed the graduates in review of the work accomplished during the past year. All the classes of the conservatories will remain in session during the summer, and the scholastic year, 1923-24, begins on September 1 next.

FACULTY NOTES.

Additions to the teaching staff, aside from those already enumerated, are as follows: The Piano Department: Lucille McManus, Margaretha E. Mueller, Norine E. Wiegand, Gertrude Franke, Gertrude B. Haug; all of these are graduates in piano and harmony and have been students of the normal course during the past year. The Violin Department: George Kuntz, Marie Golub; Mr. Kuntz is a graduate of 1918 and has been engaged in the profession in various capacities since that time; Miss Golub is one of the recent graduates. The Vocal Department: Mrs. Anna M. Beckmann; Mrs. Beckmann is a Medal of Honor graduate in voice and theory and has been active in concert work. The Department of Expression: Evelyn Niebruegge.

THE REPORTER

George Enzinger, Editor.

EDITORIAL.

After an absence of two years, The Reporter again appears, conveying the greetings of the directors and members of the faculty to the friends, patrons and former pupils of the Strassberger Conservatories of Music. During these years, two important pamphlets have taken the place of The Reporter; one of these was a new edition of the catalog of the school; the other contained a historical sketch of the conservatory. The latter was issued on the occasion of the graduating exercises of 1921, these being the twenty-fifth exercises in the history of the conservatory. Although the conservatory was formally organized in 1892, it had its beginning in 1886.

The coming year, therefore, finds the Strassberger Conservatory well on its way in the second quarter of a century of its existence and it has become evident by reason of a large enrollment of pupils that it still stands foremost, among the music schools of St. Louis, in the esteem of those seeking a musical education. Numerous manifestations of appreciation on the part of our friends have been a source of gratification and encouragement to both directors and teachers; every effort will be made on their part to merit a continuance of those tokens of good will in the succeeding years.

COURSE OF STUDY.

Deeming it expedient to revise and systematize the course of piano study with especial reference to the primary and intermediate grades, the Board of Directors assigned the task to Messrs. George Enzinger and Richard Woltjen. Both were well prepared for this work by reason of their practical experience, Mr. Enzinger in his many years of private teaching having given special attention to preparatory work and Mr. Woltjen having had charge of the normal classes of the conservatory.

After giving due consideration to several prepared courses, the revisers decided to prepare a course of lessons, using as textbooks works selected from the wealth of thoroughly tried educational material, which has stood the test of years. Selections were made from the works of Löw, Loeschhorn, Duvernoy, Gurlitt, Koehler, Lecoupey and others, composers who can truly be called the "masters" of pedagogical composition.

The course, the first grade of which has been prepared, consists of lessons adapted to each work with an introductory chapter on "Notation" and an explanatory chapter on "The Scales." An especial effort was made to adapt the language of the explanations to the comprehension of pupils of immature age, as these almost wholly constitute the preparatory classes in music study. Several works in each grade will be prepared, in order to retain the flexibility of the course, an opportunity being thereby given the teacher to develop the individuality of the pupil; those which have already been prepared are "Teacher and Pupil, Four-hand Piano School," by Joseph Löw, Volume 1, and A. Loeschhorn, Opus 84, Volume 1. Other works will follow from time to time, so as to cover the intermediate grades. Further progress through the advanced grades will be left to the individuality of the teacher, the need of a fixed course being less urgent.

FACULTY RECITALS.

The recital of Mr. Daniel Jones, which was scheduled for November 12, 1922, was looked forward to by his many friends and admirers who remembered his previous excellent recitals. It was, therefore, a matter of keen disappointment and regret that a sudden serious illness compelled him to cancel the recital. After his recovery, it was too late to resume preparations for the recital, as the piano and harmony classes required his undivided attention. It is to be hoped that no unfortunate interruption will deprive music-lovers of the pleasure of hearing Mr. Jones' splendid work during the coming season.

A faculty recital was given January 30, 1923, the artists being Mr. Louis Conrath, pianist; Mrs. Esmeralda Berry-Mayes, violinist, and Mr. John F. Kiburz, flutist; Mrs. John F. Kiburz and Mr. George Enzinger, accompanists. A large audience followed with keen interest the work of the artists. Mr. Conrath also appeared on the program, as composer, playing four of his compositions.

STUDENTS' RECITALS.

Private recitals, which are designed as a test of the pupil's progress and as a preparation for appearance in public recitals, were held about the middle and toward the close of each season. The public recitals of the season 1921-22 were held as follows: Advanced and graduate departments, November 27, 1921; May 1, 1922. Advanced intermediate department, May 7, 1922. Intermediate department, May 9, 1922. The public recitals of the season 1922-23 were held as follows: Advanced and graduate departments, December 3, 1922; April 8, 1923. Advanced and intermediate departments, February 19, 1923.

The students of the department of expression on May 22, 1922, presented "Beverly's Triumph," a play in three acts, which was given in the masterly manner resulting from careful study. The violin ensemble played a very attractive program during the evening.

The Strassberger Choral Club on December 27, 1922, presented a cantata, "The Angel and the Star," and an operetta, "Christmas Joy Bells." The excellent rendition of both cantata and operetta delighted a large audience.

Rehearsing and staging of both cantata and operetta were in charge of Miss Olivia Merkel of the Vocal Department. Miss Edna Hinshaw has been the president of the Choral Club since its organization. The Conservatory Orchestra assisted with several well-performed numbers.

LOUIS CONRATH.

The increased enrollment in the Graduate Department emphasized the need of an additional instructor in that department.



Director Strassberger was fortunate in being able to secure the services of Mr. Louis Conrath, who had recently returned to St. Louis, after a few years of rest and recreation in California. Mr. Conrath received his early musical education at Mayence and continued his studies at the Leipzig Conservatory under Carl Reinecke, Oscar Paul and S. Jadassohn. The large number of pupils who studied under him during his former connection with the Strassberger Conservatory and later when he was at the head of his own school can testify to his thoroughness, as a musical educator.

CHARLES TRISKA.

Charles Triska, Czech violinist, received his training from several noted violinists who were disciples of such famous violin pedagogs as Profs. A. Bennewitz and O. Sevcik. He has been a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Czech Quartet of St. Louis; he has also held responsible positions, as director and violinist, in various theaters and organizations of the city. Mr. Triska, whose teachings are based upon the Sevcik system of violin playing, has also been very successful as an instructor and his experience will undoubtedly prove valuable to the students of the conservatory.



P. EDW. WHITE.

The amazing popularity of the saxophone is reflected in the large enrollment of students of this instrument. This department is now in charge of Mr. P. Edward White, whose previous activities, as member of theater orchestras and band leader, have particularly fitted him for his present work. Mr. White's aim is to develop the musical capabilities of the saxophone, rather than its so-called "jazz" features; the latter can well be left to develop themselves. He has already had such excellent results that he was able to present a number of his pupils in recital whose work displayed splendid possibilities of the saxophone, as a solo instrument.



MISS MABEL FISHER.

Miss Mabel Fisher is a graduate of the Expression Department of Strassberger Conservatory under Miss Olivia Gregory. Following her graduation, she took a year's post-graduate work from Miss Gregory, specializing in platform work. She studied public speaking under Dr. Clarence Stratton at Washington University and, during the past year, has studied dramatic interpretation under Miss Gertrude Johnson of Wisconsin University, story telling under Mrs. Hunt of Wellesley and play production under Prof. Ryan of Cornell University.



ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Anne Dante: No, Mrs. Edward Gillespie is not a new addition to the Piano Department; it is only "Our Katherine," who seemed to think her name was "Dwyer" long enough. She changed it on the fifth of April, 1923, with the permission of the St. Louis city official in charge of the proper department.

IRWIN F. HENGELSBERG.

Irwin F. Hengelsberg is a graduate of the Violin Department of the Strassberger Conservatory, receiving his third degree and gold medal in violin and harmony in 1906; later he took supplementary work from several noted instructors. His professional career includes his engagement, as director, in a number of the leading theaters of the city, and numerous appearances as concert violinist. In recent years, he has devoted a great part of his time to teaching; the practical knowledge, which he gained in this work, will without doubt be productive of good results in the Violin Department.



ANNA M. BECKMAN.

Anna M. Beckman, who has been added to the Vocal Department, is a third degree and Medal of Honor graduate of this institution in voice, having studied with Mr. O. Wade Fallert; she also graduated in piano and theory. She has had extensive professional experience in concert and operatic work, having been the soprano of the Haydn Quartette for three years. She has also been very successful as an instructor, her voice, which is a clear and even soprano of coloratura quality, enabling her to make her demonstrations of tone peculiarly valuable.



THE ORCHESTRA.

To the students of orchestral instruments, ensemble playing, or concerted work, is indispensable. The Violin Ensemble and the Conservatory Orchestra are two activities of the conservatory, which offer special advantages in that class of work.

The Violin Ensemble, the work of which is preparatory to the more advanced orchestral work, is in charge of Director Strassberger, whose many years of experience, as orchestra director, have well fitted him for this work.

The Conservatory Orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Frank Gecks, who is unquestionably the most thoroughly equipped man for orchestra training in the city at present.

At the recital of the Violin Ensemble on March 27, 1923, the young players displayed the results of their excellent training by precision of attack and good quality of tone, which was true to pitch at all times.

The concerts of the orchestra were given on April 30, 1922, and April 11, 1923. At both concerts, large audiences of lovers of music were delighted with the professional vim, with which the players performed the various numbers. At the first concert, the important number was Haydn's Symphony in G major (called "The Surprise"), the four movements of which were splendidly given. At the second concert, the outstanding numbers were: Overture, "If I Were King," Adam; Ballet Music, "Rosamund," Schubert; "Awakening of Spring," Bach.

REPORTER

GRADUATES' ACTIVITIES.

Miss Mary Josephine Henry, third degree and Medal of Honor graduate of 1921, gave a piano recital at Granite City, Ill., in March, 1921, at which occasion Miss Henry's artistic playing gave testimony of the excellent training, which she received at the Strassberger Conservatory under Mr. Daniel Jones. The program contained the following numbers: Bach-Tausig, "Toccata" and "Fugue;" Beethoven, "Sonata Pathetique," Opus 13; Chopin, two nocturnes, two waltzes; Arensky, "Etude," F sharp major; "Impromptu," B major; Debussy, "Isle of Joy;" Liszt, "Tarantella."

MISS IRENE HEINBERG,

Miss Irene Heinberg, third degree and Medal of Honor graduate of 1922, as a result of her training at the Strassberger Conservatory under Mr. O. Wade Fallert, received an engagement as prima donna with the Davies Light Opera Company. She has just concluded her third season with the company, which played in colleges and auditoriums in thirteen states. The itinerary included Tarrytown, Seneca Falls, Watertown and Oswego, N. Y.; Dayton and Lakeside, Ohio; New Albany, Shelbyville and Richmond, Ind.; Duluth and Minneapolis, Minn.; Madison and Manitowoc, Wis.



MISS EVELYN NIEBRUEGGE.

Miss Evelyn Niebruegge has been added to the Department of Expression. She has been a student of the Expression Department and is also a graduate in piano and harmony. Numerous appearances in St. Louis and elsewhere bear testimony to her ability and her splendid attainments as a reader and elocutionist.



OFFICE NOTES.

Mrs. Clara Bennholz, whose cordiality endeared her to both teachers and pupils during her many years of service at the North Side school has been transferred to the O'Fallon Park School.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Howard have been placed in charge of the office at the North Side School.

We are glad to make a note of the fact that the South Side office is still in charge of those faithful workers, Mrs. E. A. Tassi and Miss Emma Herder; what would we ever do without them?

ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual Christmas dinner, tendered to the faculty by the Board of Directors, took place at the Mission Inn on Saturday evening, December 30, 1922. For the moment, all serious business was laid aside, and social fellowship ruled the gathering. Humorous and witty talks by both directors and teachers contributed to the general gaiety of the evening.

GRADUATING EXERCISES.

The exercises of the class of 1921 were held June 22, 1921; those of the class of 1922 on June 21, 1922.

The class of 1921 was noteworthy from the fact that it was the twenty-fifth anniversary class of Strassberger Conservatories. Mr. H. W. Becker in his address to the graduates gave an outline of the growth of the conservatory from its humble beginning to the commanding position it now holds, among the music schools of the Middle West; he displayed a program of the first graduating exercises of the school, of which he was justly proud.

The members of the class of 1921 were the following: Graduates of the third degree: Mary Josephine Henry, Henry C. Thias. Graduates of the second degree: Marcella Bien, Anna M. Beckman, Mary Katherine Skarry, Lillian Boesenberg, Harriett E. Eddie, Viola Mae Kurrus, Irene B. Heinberg, Kathryn Ruth Schoene, Laura Josephine Suda, Vivian E. Quentin. Graduates of the first degree: Lillian Wutzler, Elizabeth A. Boyer, Agnes E. Goldsberry, Norine E. Wiegand, Evelyn Niebruegge, L. Estelle Krames, Leo J. Stephens, Mary Doris Groves, Leona Umpleby, Ann R. Morrissey, Pearl E. Schaefer, Lucille McManis, Edith Mueller, Gertrude Franke, Estelle Mae Hoffman, Joseph Marceno. Private course: Adelheid Brandenburger.

The members of the class of 1922 were the following: Graduates of the third degree: Marcella Bien, Harriett E. Eddie, Anna M. Beckmann, Elizabeth Kellerman, Irene B. Heinberg, Lillian Boesenberg. Graduates of the second degree: Lillian Wutzler, Elizabeth A. Boyer, Evelyn Niebruegge, Leona Umpleby, Ann R. Morrissey, Lucille McManis, Leo J. Stephens, Pearl E. Schaefer, Norine E. Wiegand, Irene Imholtz, Agnes E. Goldsberry, Edith Mueller, Gertrude Franke. Graduates of the first degree: Marie I. Krauss, Dorothy I. Dombach, Paul A. Hoeffler, Margaretha E. Mueller, Marjory M. Gram, Ledia F. Koch, Anna Naes, Christine Werthmuller, Marie Golub, Olivia M. Merkel, Gertrude B. Haug, William J. Bartling, Edna Seib, Margaret G. Hablutzel, Emma F. L. Ritter, Nelda E. Heublein, Mrs. Aug. Hartmann, Virginia D. Mallm, George T. Kuzdas, Eva Pontero. Private course: Grace A. Piccini, Eva Pontero, Alleyne S. Seybolt.

GEORGE A. KUNTZ.

George A. Kuntz, third degree and Medal of Honor graduate of this institution in 1918, was a member of a chautauqua concert orchestra which toured the northern states in 1918. During the following four years, he was located at Shreveport, La.,



where he was director of the Grand Opera House. He has returned to St. Louis and has been engaged as a teacher in the Violin Department of the Strassberger Conservatory.